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Letter dated 12 August 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 August 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Engin SOYSAL
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 11 August 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 30 June and 29 July 1999 (A/53/1007-S/1999/744 and A/53/1030-S/1999/835, respectively) addressed to you by Greek Cypriot representatives at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

It will be recalled that similar unfounded charges of so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 30 June 1999 (A/53/1008-S/1999/745). I would like to emphasize, once again, that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

While directing such unfounded accusations against the Turkish Cypriot side, the Greek Cypriot side is blatantly continuing with its heavy militarization campaign in South Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot daily Cyprus Mail of 6 August 1999 has reported that South Cyprus is to receive six TOR-M1 missile systems from Greece as part of the exchange for Russian S-300 missiles now deployed in Crete. Reportedly, the Greek Cypriot National Guard will receive the first batch of 21 such missile systems once they have been delivered to Greece from Russia. According to the Greek Cypriot daily Politis dated 7 August 1999 the TOR-M1 missile systems will be displayed at the military parade to be held on 1 October.

The Greek Cypriot armaments programme for the period 1997-2001, according to Greek Cypriot weekly Periodiko, includes the following:

41	tanks
12	155 mm mobile artillery
7	35 mm anti-aircraft guns
12	Aspide systems
2	Mistral-Atlas missiles
3	destroyers
2	Shaldag patrol vessels
3	MM-40 Exocet Block 2 shore missile systems
20-32	aircraft
4-6	helicopters
12	S-300 RM41 missile systems

I would like to emphasize that the continuing militarization campaign by the Greek Cypriot side, as well as the hostile and restrictive policies directed against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus. My Government expects that the Greek Cypriot side will be urged by the international community to abandon its anachronistic policies against the Turkish Cypriot people and to stop the arming campaign, which exacerbate tension and hinder progress towards reconciliation between the two States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ Plümer
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus